***** Note: Items highlighted in gray do not need translation***

Section 1: Story

OAXACA DE JUÁREZ, MEXICO — For award-winning journalist Soledad Jarquín, the fight for justice following her daughter's death is all-consuming.

"Every day that goes by, it's like I see a wall in front of me that grows and grows while I try to climb it, never reaching the top," she says. "It's the reflection of that feeling of impotence that comes from the mixture of impunity from my daughter's femicide, combined with the intense pain of having lost her forever. It's all so intense that it affects the day-to-day life of my entire family."

María del Sol **Cruz Jarquín,** a photographer, was shot in Juchitán de Zaragoza, Oaxaca, on June 2, 2018. It took until October 2021 for her death to be classified as a femicide instead of a homicide. Still, Jarquín says she has heard nothing from authorities about her daughter's case.

A quarter of the 4,002 homicides involving women in Mexico were classified as femicides in 2021. Femicide is defined as the murder of a girl or woman for gender-based reasons, which is determined by certain criteria, such as evidence of sexual violence prior to the person's death, a trusting relationship with the perpetrator, or the body being displayed in public. Despite an alarming rise in femicides, campaigners say too many cases are not deemed femicide from the start, which means losing the opportunity for important investigation procedures. Many homicides of women are classified as culpable homicide, which can imply an accident, letting the state off the hook for forming public policies to prevent gender-based violence.

Like many relatives of those who have died by femicide, Jarquín says, she has had to push authorities to investigate her daughter's death. Last summer, driven by the lack of action, she took her case to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in Geneva. It was the committee's first femicide case from Oaxaca.

This wasn't the first time Jarquín had taken her case outside the Mexican justice system. In November 2021, she presented at a feminist tribunal in Oaxaca, headed by a panel of women judges. The experts looked at **Jarquín's** case, as well as six other femicide cases, and chose to take it to the international courts. One of the organizers of the tribunal, the nongovernmental organization Consorcio Oaxaca, which champions women's rights, accompanied Jarquín to Geneva.

On the fourth anniversary of her daughter's death, Jarquín appeared before the Human Rights Council, an intergovernmental body within the United Nations. Jarquín says members were expecting a representative from Consorcio Oaxaca to speak, but instead, Jarquín took the floor.

"I had to keep my voice from cracking and crying because my time was limited to a minute and a half, and I had to make the most of it," **Jarquín** recalls**. "I told myself, 'Later you cry and do what you want, but here you hold on and say it.'"**

Now all Jarquín can do is hope and wait for the international court to make recommendations to Mexico's legal system on how to deal with the case. As a member of the U.N., Mexico is legally bound by resolutions passed by U.N. bodies.

On Jarquín's return from Geneva, she was notified that the Mexican courts had dealt with the theft of her daughter's belongings after her death. Following a two-day trial, the person, identified only by their initials, was found guilty and sentenced to 13 years in jail. Yet Jarquín moves no closer to justice for her daughter's femicide.

María de la Luz Estrada Mendoza, coordinator of the National Citizens' Observatory on Femicide, which monitors the lack of justice for those who have died by femicide, explains that in Mexico, there is a pattern of impunity.

"The conditions under which these patterns endure continue, and no one is able to prevent them or punish those responsible," Estrada Mendoza says. "These are the main obstacles to justice. The problem currently with proving the crime of femicide is in the lack of both due diligence and a gendered perspective in the investigation of the crime. This contributes to total impunity for these types of incidents."

Jarquín, who in 2006 won the National Prize in Journalism, says her fight for justice has meant gradually leaving her career behind. "As time goes on, I've dedicated myself less and less to journalism and more to the cause of justice for my daughter," she says. "The indirect victims are the families. If we didn't have to demand justice ourselves, if the system worked, we would be getting notifications about how the investigation is going or they would send us messages detailing when we have to present ourselves to the authorities. We wouldn't have to keep showing up over and over again to check on the case. We wouldn't have to go to protests organized because of the lack of progress [on femicide cases], and we mothers especially wouldn't have to be the ones, as we so often are, to carry out our own investigations."

Despite the rise in femicide cases, it's thought that many more go unreported because many states classify these cases as homicides, says Irene Tello, former director of Impunidad Cero, a nongovernmental organization that monitors impunity in Mexico.

"When they're not catalogued as femicides, then the proper investigative protocols aren't followed," Tello says. "Even worse, when they're determined to be culpable homicides, it means that the person who committed the crime didn't do it on purpose but rather by accident. This has a very large effect on how the case is then put together."

In December, on resigning from his position as head of the attorney general's office in Oaxaca after almost two years, Arturo Peimbert said in a televised interview that his department was underpaid, with limited resources, leading to many justice challenges. On the high rate of femicides in the state, he said, "I would put it at the highest level of priority."

The Oaxaca attorney general's office, where J**osé Bernardo Rodríguez Alamilla replaced** Peimbert**,** did not respond to a request for comment.

María Fabiola Alanís Sámano, national commissioner for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women, working as part of the Ministry of the Interior, says the number of open cases is an outstanding debt owed by public institutions.

"We are deeply hurt by this situation," she adds.

This failure of the justice system extends beyond Oaxaca. In Chiapas, Nora Zenteno Juárez is still hoping that justice will be served for the death of her daughter, Lissette Paulina Gómez Zenteno, in December 2019.

"My doubts began when they did not investigate or detain my daughter's partner, who was the last person to see her alive and who had already been violent with her and with me," she says. "By the time the police summoned him for questioning, almost a month had passed. He'd already disappeared."

Zenteno Juárez says the public prosecutor's office ruled her daughter's death a suicide in late 2020. Her daughter's partner has since died, leaving the family with many unanswered questions.

The attorney general's office of Chiapas refused to comment.

"Every time a woman is killed, we should all be out there demanding justice. People need to understand that this is a wound for all of us as a society," Jarquín says. "As the years go by, our physical and emotional health continue to fracture. It's been … years since I've slept through the night."

Section 2: Display Type

HEADLINE:

As Her Daughter's Femicide Case Stalls in Mexico, One Mother Seeks Justice Elsewhere

DECK:

In Mexico, as the state and authorities fail to deliver justice for femicides, grieving mothers take matters into their own hands — at times, traveling all the way to international courts.

TWEET:
Soledad Jarquín's daughter was shot in Oaxaca in 2018, but it took until 2021 for her death to be classified as a femicide. Five years after the murder, Jarquín says she has heard nothing from authorities. Inside one mother's frustrating quest for justice:

NEWSLETTER TEASER:
Injustice in Mexico: As local authorities stall, a mother takes her daughter's femicide case to international courts.

Section 3: Bylines

BYLINE: Ena Aguilar Peláez, Marissa Revilla
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Section 4: Photos

Fill out the information below for each image in the story package:

PHOTO NAME: 01_GPJNews_Mexico_EAP_Feminicide2_031_L_T

STORY CAPTION: Soledad Jarquín sits in her living room, next to an altar dedicated to her daughter, María del Sol Cruz Jarquín, who died by femicide five years ago.

AP CAPTION: Soledad Jarquín sits in her living room, in the city of Oaxaca, Mexico, on Dec. 3, 2021, next to an altar dedicated to her daughter, María del Sol Cruz Jarquín, who died by femicide five years ago.

PHOTO CREDIT: Ena Aguilar Peláez

diptych, two photos, one caption
PHOTO NAME: 02_GPJNews_Mexico_EAP_Femicide_050_L
02_GPJNews_Mexico_EAP_Femicide_040_R

STORY CAPTION: In 2022, pink crosses with the names of women and girls who have died by femicide were pasted on the door of the then-Oaxaca governor's house, and candles in the shape of a cross were placed outside.

AP CAPTION: 02_GPJNews_Mexico_EAP_Femicide_050_L
On International Women's Day, on March 8, 2022, pink crosses with the names of women and girls who have died by femicide were pasted on the door of the then-governor's house in Oaxaca, Mexico.

02_GPJNews_Mexico_EAP_Femicide_040_R
Mothers of women and girls who have died by femicide place purple, white and pink candles in the form of a cross outside the then-governor's house on International Women's Day in Oaxaca, Mexico, on March 8, 2022.

PHOTO CREDIT: Ena Aguilar Peláez

PHOTO NAME: 03_GPJNews_Mexico_EAP_Femicide_010

STORY CAPTION: Relatives and friends of María del Sol Cruz Jarquín take to the streets to demand justice in Oaxaca.

AP CAPTION: Relatives and friends of María del Sol Cruz Jarquín take to the streets to demand justice at an International Women's Day march in Oaxaca, Mexico, on March 8, 2022.

PHOTO CREDIT: Ena Aguilar Peláez

Section 5: Graphics

GRAPHIC FILE NAME:
GPJNews_Mexico_MR_EAP_Femicide_GraphicWordDocV2.docx

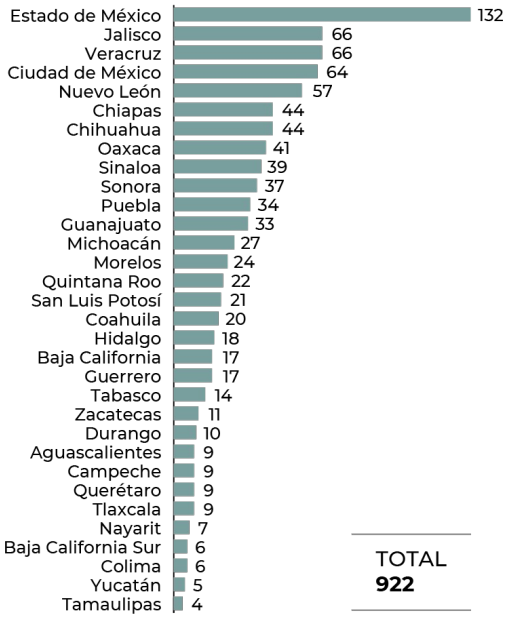
SPANISH TEXT

Graphic Screenshot and Text to Edit

(Graphic was created in Spanish first, so this will need an English translation. Then copy edited after translation)

Homicidios registrados como feminicidios

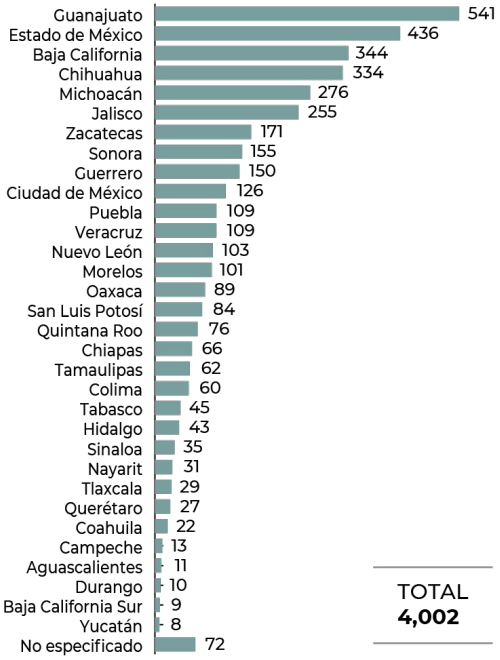
En México por estado de enero al 30 de noviembre 2021



Fuente: Secretariado Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública

Homicidios intencionales de mujeres en 2021

En México por estado



Fuente: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía

Homicidios registrados como feminicidios

Homicidios registrados como feminicidios en México por estado de enero al 30 de noviembre 2021 ~~Presuntas víctimas de feminicidio~~Alleged Victims of Homicide

~~**Homicides registered as femicides in Mexico by state from January 30 to November 2021**~~

~~**Homicidios registrados como feminicidios en México por estado de enero al 30 de noviembre 2021**~~

~~Estado de México~~Estado de México	132
Jalisco	66
Veracruz	66
Ciudad de México	64
Nuevo León	57
Chiapas	44
Chihuahua	44

Oaxaca	41
Sinaloa	39
Sonora	37
Puebla	34
Guanajuato	33
Michoacán	27
Morelos	24
Quintana Roo	22
San Luis Potosí	21
Coahuila	20
Hidalgo	18
Baja California	17
Guerrero	17
Tabasco	14
Zacatecas	11
Durango	10
Aguascalientes	9
Campeche	9
Querétaro	9
Tlaxcala	9
Nayarit	7
Baja California Sur	6
Colima	6
Yucatán	5
Tamaulipas	4

State of Mexico	132
Jalisco	66
Veracruz	66
Ciudad de México (Mexico City)	64
Nuevo León	57
Chiapas	44
Chihuahua	44
Oaxaca	41
Sinaloa	39
Sonora	37
Puebla	34
Guanajuato	33
Michoacán	27
Morelos	24
Quintana Roo	22
San Luis Potosí	21
Coahuila	20
Hidalgo	18
Baja California	17
Guerrero	17
Tabasco	14
Zacatecas	11
Durango	10
Aguascalientes	9
Campeche	9
Querétaro	9

Tlaxcala	9
Nayarit	7
Baja California Sur	6
Colima	6
Yucatán	5
Tamaulipas	4
TOTAL	922

Fuente: Secretariado Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública.
Fuente: Secretariado Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública Source: Executive Secretary of the National Pubic Security System

Homicidios intencionales de mujeres en 2021
En México por estado
Female victims of intentional homicide Mujeres víctimas de homicidio intencional
En México por estado 2021
in Mexico by state in 2021

Guanajuato	541
Guanajuato	541
Estado de México	436
Baja California	344
Chihuahua	334
Michoacán de Ocampo	276
Jalisco	255
Zacatecas	171
Sonora	155
Guerrero	150
Ciudad de México	126
Puebla	109
Veracruz de gnacio de la Llave	109
Nuevo León	103
Morelos	101
Oaxaca	89
San Luis Potosí	84
Quintana Roo	76
Chiapas	66
Tamaulipas	62
Colima	60
Tabasco	45
Hidalgo	43
Sinaloa	35
Nayarit	31
Tlaxcala	29
Querétaro	27
Coahuila de Zaragoza	22
Campeche	13

Aguascalientes	11
Durango	10
Baja California Sur	9
Yucatán	8
No especificado	72

Estado de México	436
Baja California	344
Chihuahua	334
Michoacán de Ocampo	276
Jalisco	255
Zacatecas	171
Sonora	155
Guerrero	150
Ciudad de México	126
Puebla	109
Veracruz	109
Nuevo León	103
Morelos	101
Oaxaca	89
San Luis Potosí	84
Quintana Roo	76
Chiapas	66
Tamaulipas	62
Colima	60
Tabasco	45
Hidalgo	43
Sinaloa	35
Nayarit	31
Tlaxcala	29
Querétaro	27
Coahuila de Zaragoza	22
Campeche	13
Aguascalientes	11
Durango	10
Baja California Sur	9
Yucatán	8
No especificado	72
TOTAL	4,002

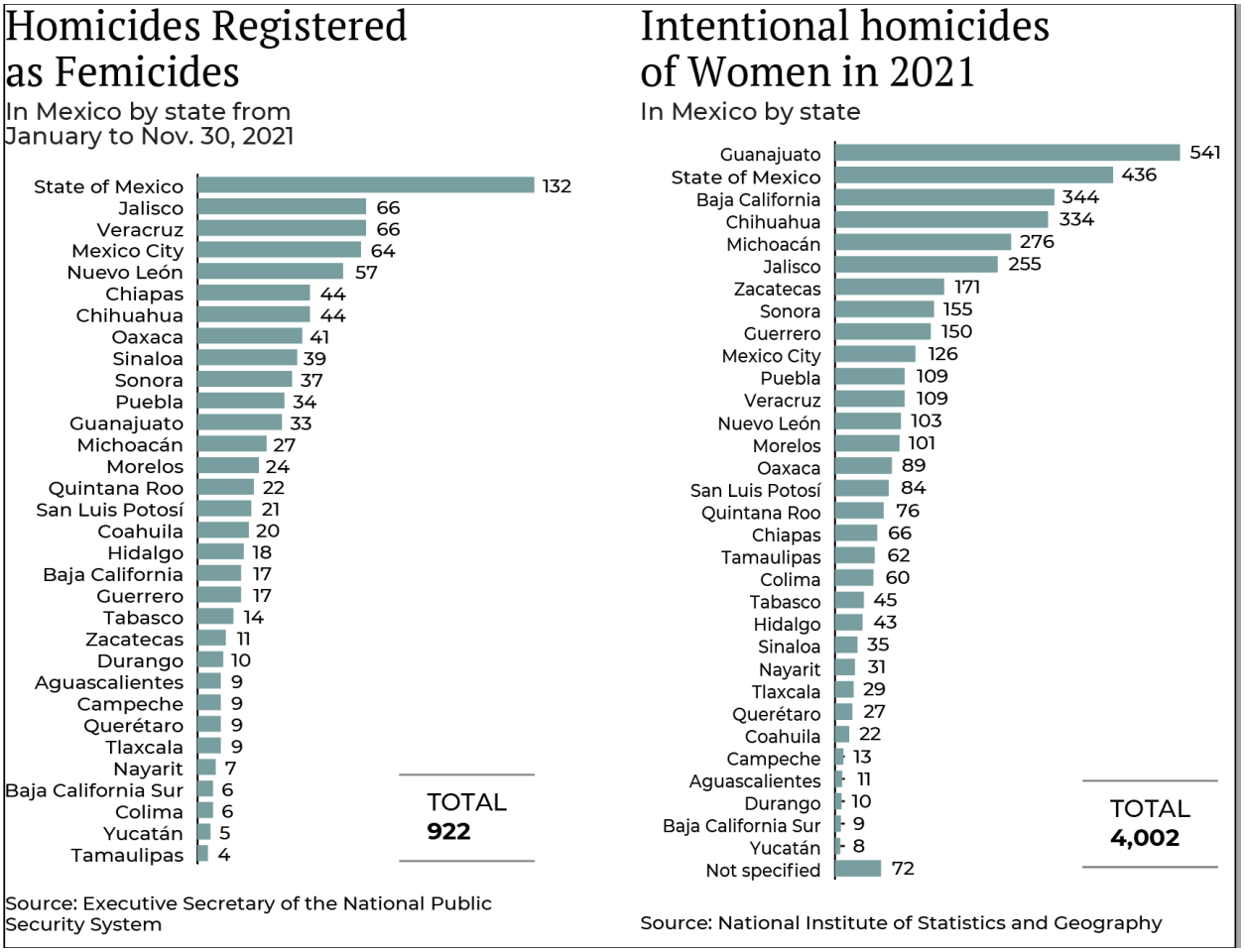
Mexico City	126
State of Mexico	436

Fuente: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía

Source: National Institute of Statistics and Geography

Fuente: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía

ENGLISH GRAPHIC and TEXT



Homicides registered as femicides In Mexico by state from January to Nov. 30, 2021

State of Mexico	132
Jalisco	66
Veracruz	66
Mexico City	64
Nuevo León	57
Chiapas	44
Chihuahua	44
Oaxaca	41
Sinaloa	39
Sonora	37
Puebla	34
Guanajuato	33
Michoacán	27
Morelos	24
Quintana Roo	22
San Luis Potosí	21
Coahuila	20
Hidalgo	18

Baja California	17
Guerrero	17
Tabasco	14
Zacatecas	11
Durango	10
Aguascalientes	9
Campeche	9
Querétaro	9
Tlaxcala	9
Nayarit	7
Baja California Sur	6
Colima	6
Yucatán	5
Tamaulipas	4
TOTAL	922

Source: Executive Secretary of the National Public Security System

Intentional homicides of Women in 2021
In Mexico by state

Guanajuato	541
State of Mexico	436
Baja California	344
Chihuahua	334
Michoacán	276
Jalisco	255
Zacatecas	171
Sonora	155
Guerrero	150
Mexico City	126
Puebla	109
Veracruz	109
Nuevo León	103
Morelos	101
Oaxaca	89
San Luis Potosí	84
Quintana Roo	76
Chiapas	66
Tamaulipas	62
Colima	60
Tabasco	45
Hidalgo	43
Sinaloa	35
Nayarit	31
Tlaxcala	29
Querétaro	27
Coahuila de Zaragoza	22
Campeche	13

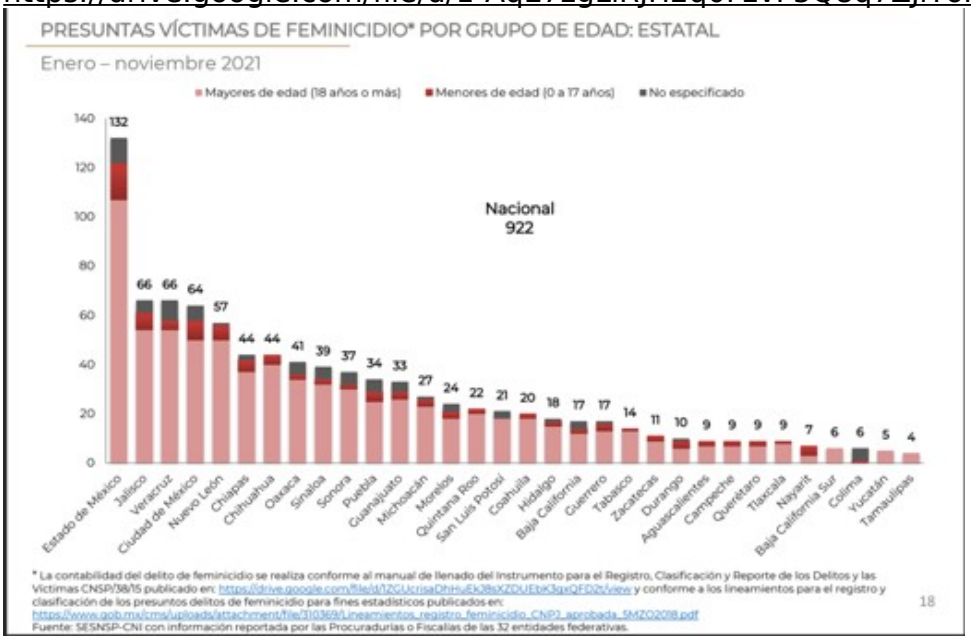
Aguascalientes	11
Durango	10
Baja California Sur	9
Yucatán	8
Not specified	72
TOTAL	4,002

Source: National Institute of Statistics and Geography

SOURCE MATERIALS and LINKS

Femicides

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-AqE7zgLlRJH2q0FzvP5Q8q7ZJlYoRtj/view



Homicides

Sexo - Total		Hombre	Mujer	No especificado
Ent y mun de ocurrencia				
- Total	35,700	31,263	4,002	435
+ Aguascalientes	99	88	11	
+ Baja California	3,218	2,730	344	144
+ Baja California Sur	71	62	9	
+ Campeche	87	74	13	
+ Coahuila de Zaragoza	160	138	22	
+ Colima	551	490	60	1
+ Chiapas	566	496	66	4
+ Chihuahua	2,724	2,383	334	7
+ Ciudad de México	1,072	945	126	1
+ Durango	147	136	10	1
+ Guanajuato	4,171	3,565	541	65
+ Guerrero	1,437	1,276	150	11
+ Hidalgo	285	242	43	
+ Jalisco	2,260	1,998	255	7
+ México	3,114	2,650	436	28
+ Michoacán de Ocampo	2,677	2,398	276	3
+ Morelos	1,196	1,095	101	
+ Nayarit	220	184	31	5
+ Nuevo León	1,070	967	103	
+ Oaxaca	773	684	89	
+ Puebla	813	701	109	3
+ Querétaro	228	201	27	
+ Quintana Roo	669	593	76	
+ San Luis Potosí	794	701	84	9
+ Sinaloa	633	597	35	1
+ Sonora	2,069	1,839	155	75
+ Tabasco	447	402	45	
+ Tamaulipas	733	628	62	43
+ Tlaxcala	160	131	29	
+ Veracruz de gnacio de la Llave	922	812	109	1
+ Yucatán	55	47	8	
+ Zacatecas	1,767	1,578	171	18

Sexo - Total		Hombre	Mujer	No especificado
Ent y mun de ocurrencia				
+ No especificado	512	432	72	8